

Montana Newsletter

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November, 1979

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Farmers Home Administration Grants 601 Impact Funds

The Farmers Home Administration has announced its FY 1979 allocation of Section 601 Energy Impact Assistance funds to Montana counties and cities. The funds, available to communities experiencing impacts from coal development, were granted as follows:

Planning Grants

Big Horn County	\$16,000
Carbon County	15,000
Laurel	10,000
Musselshell County	16,000
Powder River County	20,000
Rosebud County	15,000
Treasure County	10,000

Project Grants

Big Horn: school site acquisition	67,950
Carbon: bridge site acquisition and development	37,500
Carbon: land fill sites acquisition and development	30,000
Laurel: land fill site development	15,000
Laurel: sewer treatment site acquisition	26,250

The FmHA 601 program provides project grants to fund 75 percent of the cost of the acquisition and improvement of sites for public facilities or housing. The funds may not be used for construction of a project.

Planning grants, which require no local match, are

available to assist localities with planning for growth management, public facilities and housing. This year's planning grants were made to assist Montana counties to update their comprehensive plans in order to meet FmHA 601 planning requirements. A locality's plan must comply with the 601 planning requirements in order to be eligible for project funding after January 1, 1981.

The governor of each state with coal or uranium development was required to designate as impact counties those counties or multi-county areas which experienced an eight percent increase in coal employment between 1977 and 1978, or which are projected to realize an eight percent coal employment increase in each of the three years from 1979 to 1982. The eight counties designated in Montana are Big Horn, Carbon, Custer, Musselshell, Powder River, Rosebud, Treasure, and Yellowstone.

The national appropriation for fiscal year 1979 was \$20 million. That money was allocated among the states under a formula based 90 percent on past and projected increases in coal employment and 10 percent on FmHA's estimate of need for assistance.

The national funding level for FY 1980 has not been set at this time, but proposals for funding range between \$75 million and \$120 million. In addition to increasing the funding level, other changes have been proposed in legislation introduced in Congress. Under the Hart-Ford bill the FmHA 601 program would be broadened in scope to include assistance for construction of public facilities, and impacts from development of other energy resources would also be eligible under the program.

New Program Will Rehabilitate Low-Income Rental Units

The Housing and Community Facilities Bureau of DCA's Community Development Division recently received word that its application for two Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Housing Programs had been approved. Annual contract authority of \$327,456 has been reserved for 100 units in the metropolitan areas of Montana, and \$192,012 has been reserved for 75 units in the non-metropolitan areas. It is anticipated that the actual contract for the program will be signed with HUD in November.

The Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Housing Program is designed to rehabilitate rental housing units that need only small amounts of rehabilitation work done to bring them up to decent, safe, and sanitary conditions. Housing units with low-income tenants or vacant units that will be rented to low-income tenants will be eligible for the program. Once a unit has been

rehabilitated, the owner is guaranteed rent over a 15 year period if the unit continues to be rented to low income families.

Initially, DCA will subcontract with the Billings, Butte, Great Falls, Helena and Kalispell Community Development Agencies to handle administration of the rehabilitation work itself. Eligible lower-income families living in the units slated for rehabilitation will receive assistance, as well as those on the Department's Section 8 Existing Housing program's waiting list who are selected to fill vacant units. A participating family will pay no more than 25% of its adjusted income for rent, and the Department will pay the difference between that amount and the full rent directly to the owner of the unit. For more details on this program, contact Roger Pedersen, Community Development Division, (telephone) 449-2804.

Revenue Sharing Audits

One of the more significant changes brought about by the 1976 amendments to the Federal Revenue Sharing Act was in the requirement for the audit of a recipient government's entire financial records. Prior to the 1976 amendments, audits were required of only the government's Revenue Sharing Trust Fund. The law now requires financial and compliance audits of all funds of each recipient government. The term "fund" as used in the revenue sharing act is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts recording financial resources, liabilities, and equity or fund balance. Examples of funds are the general fund, debt service fund and the enterprise fund.

In recent weeks, various publications have carried articles on the new revenue sharing audit requirements. Some confusion has arisen over the statement in some of those articles that revenue sharing entitlement payments will be withheld from governments which have not obtained the required revenue sharing audits by March 1, 1980. The official interpretation of the audit requirements, however, is that each local government must, by March 1, 1980, have either submitted the required audit reports or advised the Office of Revenue Sharing as to its plans for meeting the audit requirements.

The Local Government Services Division of the Department of Community Affairs has an on-going arrangement with the Office of Revenue Sharing to conduct the required financial and compliance revenue sharing audits in conjunction with the department's regular examination of municipal operations. In most cases, the revenue sharing audit will be made for the entity's fiscal year ended June 30, 1979. (Anyone having questions regarding Revenue Sharing Audits should contact the Local Government Services Division at 449-3010.)

Coal Board Acts On Assistance Requests

The Montana Coal Board took action on six requests totalling over \$4.5 million at their last regular meeting in Billings on September 27-28th. Three project requests amounting to \$2.5 million were denied, while the Board approved two others for \$508,253. Approved projects were for \$469,353 to the City of Hardin for replacement of deteriorating waterlines and \$38,900 to the Big Horn County Sheriff's Department for radio communication equipment. The largest single application given preliminary approval by the Board was for \$1.5 million to remodel the present high school at Forsyth. This will be subject to final action at the next meeting, scheduled for Miles City on November 8-9, 1979. The three projects rejected by the Board included the Roundup School District's request for a new elementary school building; Livingston's request for a new fire truck; and Big Horn County's Crow Agency Handicapped Center's request for operating expenses.

NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN DAY

Friday, September 28, 1979, was proclaimed Native American Indian Day by Governor Thomas L. Judge. The Helena community observed the day with varied activities sponsored by the Helena Indian Alliance.

Activities for the day commenced with 7:00 a.m. sunrise pipe ceremonies at Memorial Park. Indian dancers and drummers from the Flathead Reservation Kicking Horse Job Corps Center performed from noon on, and films for children were presented by the Indian Education Department of the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction throughout the day. There were also hand game demonstrations, a sweat lodge, and information booths set up by the Native American Studies Program of Carroll College, Office of the Coordinator of Indian Affairs, Helena Indian Alliance, Helena Senior Citizens Program, Child and Youth Program, and the Human Rights Division of the Department of Labor and Industry. Indian handicrafts were also displayed and sold.

The menu for the day included fry bread, Indian tacos, soft drinks and coffee. The Helena Indian Alliance Women's Club was responsible for the delicious meal.

The activities concluded with sunset pipe ceremonies at 6:30 p.m., ending a day enjoyed by all.

In addition to the festivities held in Helena, each of the seven Indian Reservations in Montana and the Indian Alliances throughout the state had activities and programs celebrating Native American Indian Day.

Mountain Search Pilot Certification Program Launched

The Montana Aeronautics Division held its first Mountain Search Pilot Clinic at Kalispell from September 21 to 23, 1979. The Division has long recognized the need for a better system of selecting qualified pilots to assure the highest degree of safety while conducting mountain search operations. It is very difficult to choose mountain search pilots from a registration roster giving only total time and currency. Through holding a search clinic, the Division was able to screen, compile, and hopefully improve its selection of qualified search pilots, while at the same time getting a start on developing a more objective method of selection. In the future those pilots who successfully complete a Montana Aeronautics Mountain Search Pilot Clinic will be certified, and no air search will be flown by a pilot who has not successfully completed or instructed in one of the clinics.

The Kalispell clinic itself was divided into three major parts: 1) ground school on air search techniques as they
(Continued on next page.)

Search Pilot Certification, Continued . . .

relate to mountain flying environments, 2) ground school on ELT and homer operations, techniques, and problems, and 3) actual dual flight instruction in rugged mountain areas, with strong concentration on search techniques.

All of Montana's registered search pilots were notified of the planned clinic, and thirty of those responding were chosen to attend. The Division also selected six highly skilled mountain flying specialists as flight instructors and provided six Cessna 182s for the flight instruction. The flight training session had three components: search techniques, mountain flying techniques, and mountain strip approaches and landings.

Students awaiting their flight training attended ground training sessions. At the end of the last day's flying, a critique session was held with both students and instructors participating. Suggestions, comments and constructive criticism were requested, and the overall input received was very complimentary and gratifying. It is therefore the intention of the Aeronautics Division to continue this clinic on an annual basis.

Attorney General's Opinions On Subdivision Act Recapped

Since its adoption in 1973 the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act has been interpreted in a number of attorney general's opinions. Following is a summary of the most significant of these opinions.

1. By the authority granted to them by the Act county commissioners may adopt sanitary regulations for subdivisions which are more stringent than those promulgated by the State Department of Health and Environmental Sciences under the Sanitation in Subdivisions Act, section 76-4-104, MCA (A.G. Ops. Vol. 35, No. 39).

2. The Act does not apply to deeds executed prior to July 1, 1973, but not presented for recording until after that date. (A.G. Ops. Vol. 35, No. 55).

3. Contracts to convey land and deeds purporting to convey land are void if they have been executed in violation of the Act (A.G. Ops. Vol. 35, No. 65).

4. "Member of the immediate family" as that term is used in the Act (Section 76-3-207(1)(b) MCA) means the spouse of the grantor and the children of the grantor by blood or adoption (A.G. Ops. Vol. 35, No. 70).

5. Parcels of land for which a certificate of survey has been filed in accordance with the law in force at the time of filing may be conveyed without further compliance with the Subdivision and Platting Act even though the requirements of the Act have changed since the filing. However, the mere surveying of a parcel, without the filing of a certificate of survey (or subdivision plat),

creates no rights under the Act (A.G. Ops. Vol. 35, No. 96).

6. "Minor subdivisions" are not exempted from the cash in lieu of park land dedication requirement of section 76-3-606(2) MCA (A.G. Ops. Vol. 37, No. 1).

7. Because local governing bodies have the burden of determining whether an exemption from subdivision review is being invoked "for the purposes of evading" the Act, they may require persons claiming exemptions to demonstrate entitlement thereto (A.G. Ops. Vol. 37, No. 41).

8. Transfers of land which are not "divisions of land" or "subdivisions" as those terms are defined in the Act need not meet the Act's surveying requirements before being recorded (A.G. Ops. Vol. 37, No. 88).

9. The decision to accept cash in lieu of dedication of land for parks in subdivisions must be made on a case-by-case, not a blanket, basis. Local governing bodies may not adopt, either formally or informally, a blanket policy waiving the dedication of park land and accepting cash in lieu thereof in all subdivisions containing five or fewer lots (A.G. Ops. Vol. 37, No. 169).

Appropriate Technology Grants Deadlines Announced

Deadline dates for Grants Program Year 3 have been published by the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT), an independent, non-profit corporation based in Butte and funded by the U.S. Community Services Administration. NCAT's charge is to develop and apply appropriate technologies to specific needs of low-income persons and to promote locally based programs that develop individual and community self-reliance.

According to the NCAT announcement, an "appropriate technology":

- . . . is relatively inexpensive and simple to build, maintain, and operate;
- . . . may use renewable resources and does not require high energy concentrations;
- . . . relies primarily on people's skills, not on automated machinery;
- . . . encourages human-scale operations, small business, and community cohesion; and
- . . . is protective of human health, and is ecologically sound.

NCAT grants are generally available to Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and Community Development Corporations (CDCs), non-profit corporations, public agencies, co-ops, and Indian tribes. All applicant organizations' proposals must receive prior endorsement by their local CAA or CDC.

(Continued on next page.)

Appropriate Technology, Continued . . .

Four categories of grants have been established under which NCAT plans to award approximately \$900,000 nationwide. The first is Solar Greenhouse Impetus Grants, small grants of \$1,000 each reserved for CAAs and CDCs. Their purpose is to stimulate interest in passive solar greenhouses as an important technology to assist low-income communities. Approximately 200 grants will be made and the deadline date is March 3, 1980.

Integrated Community Demonstration Grants are planning grants of approximately \$150,000 each and are reserved for cities and small towns to demonstrate as many integrated appropriate technologies by as many participating community groups as feasible. The cities and town eligible for these grants will be asked to submit Qualification Statements prior to being asked to develop proposals. Two grants will be awarded nationwide: one urban, one rural. The Rural ICD qualifications statement due date is March 12, 1980, with the proposals from the qualifying communities being due May 2, 1980.

Specific Technology Demonstration Grants average \$10,000 each and are available to those groups meeting NCAT general eligibility requirements. Proposed programs must demonstrate or test the feasibility of specific technologies in low-income communities. Requests for proposals (RFPs) will be issued in renewal energy, building technology, recycling, and agriculture. RFPs for Cycle 2 of this category will be issued October 31, 1979, with proposals due November 26, 1979.

Innovative Technical Grants will be awarded only to highly innovative proposals responding to problems in appropriate technologies identified by the Research and Development Division of NCAT. These projects must advance the state-of-the-art of appropriate technology, have a high impact on low-income persons, and be replicable. Two hundred thousand dollars has been reserved for these grants, with a maximum award of \$40,000. Three funding cycles are planned, and the deadline date for Cycle 1 is November 26, 1979.

For further information concerning the NCAT grants program, please contact the Grants Division, National Center for Appropriate Technology, P.O. Box 3838, Butte, Montana 59701, (telephone) 494-4572.

Public Health Program Recruiting Applicants

The Master of Public Health Program for American Indians and Alaska Natives is currently recruiting individuals interested in entering graduate school in the field of public health. People interested in this field are generally concerned with developing skills to work on a problem affecting the health of the public or community at large. Their approach is largely focused on prevention. Job opportunities exist as administrators of health programs at tribal, county, state or federal levels. Graduates also work as hospital administrators, health educators or policy makers of legislation that can affect the future of Indian health.

The MPH Program is offered at the University of California, Berkeley, although students are encouraged to apply to any of the other Schools of Public Health around the country. Over one quarter of the students enrolled in the program have received their training at the Schools of Public Health at the following universities: Harvard, Hawaii, Loma Linda, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, Tulane, UCLA, and Washington.

The program offers training in such areas of specialization as hospital administration, health administration and planning, environmental health, epidemiology, or health education. In addition, a program has been developed in the field of Native American Alco-

holism and Substance Abuse.

Training in the program ranges anywhere from 12 to 24 months, depending on the specialization chosen by the student. From three to six months of the program are spent in a field placement, the remainder in the school environment.

Requirements are that applicants be at least one-quarter American Indian or Alaska Native, have a Bachelor's degree, and a sincere interest in working with Native Americans. Some experience or knowledge of the health field is preferred. Persons wishing further information or interested in applying for the program for the 1980/81 school year are urged to contact:

Elaine Walbroek, Director (or)
Wendy Schwartz, Assistant Director
MPH Program for American Indians/Alaska Natives
School of Public Health
Earl Warren Hall
University of California
Berkeley, California 94720

or call collect (415) 642-3228/9

Closing date for receiving applications is February 1, 1980.

Computer Plotting of Air Quality Data

Dave Maughan
Air Quality Bureau
Montana Department of Health
and Environmental Sciences

Each month the Air Quality Bureau (AQB) of the State Department of Health responds to many requests for ambient air quality data. Most requests originate from within the state. The AQB has attempted to satisfy such requests for air pollutant information by publishing annual reports, frequently some months after the collection of the data. The annual reports, being general in nature, present long term averages, highest concentrations, and some frequency distributions.

The AQB can supply detailed air pollution concentrations in the form of computer print-outs, but these are somewhat difficult to understand and present no observable trend information.

Earlier this year the Bureau made arrangements with the Research and Information Systems Division of DCA to plot air pollutant data which would:

1. show visual long term trend information;
2. list averages, highest readings, number of data points; and

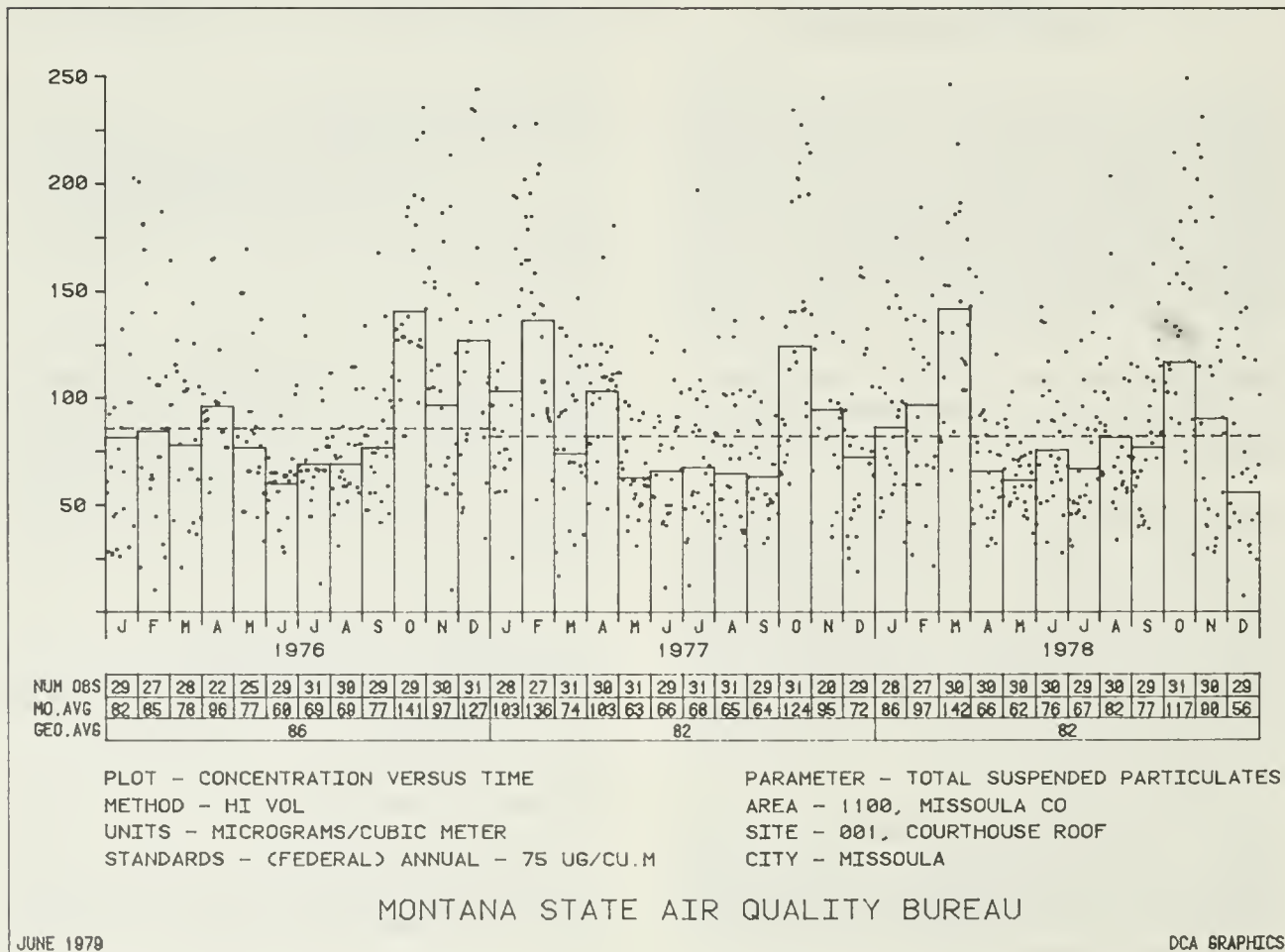
3. provide some information about collected data, showing scatter or variations in individual data points.

After joint agency meetings to review various formats, computer plots of these data for selected locations were made available for release. They show trends clearly, are easy to understand, reproduce for reports, and will probably satisfy most present data users' requests to the AQB. Future plots will display highest and second highest concentration data. The Bureau plans to maintain master copies of plots and to reproduce copies for data users upon request.

The Bureau maintains extensive air quality data files on the state's computer system. The data are directly accessed by DCA and graphic plots are made without physical transfer of the data, thereby saving manpower and eliminating copying errors.

Plots now in use have been designed and constructed for total suspended particulates, sulfates, and lead. Under design are plots for gaseous air pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, ozone, carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen, fluorides, and fine coarse airborne particles. Not only will the system be able to plot most air

(Continued on next page.)



Computer Plotting of Data, Continued . . .

pollutants, but it has options for varying time frames from single days to months or years and for varying the scale for gaseous concentrations.

Some manpower and hardware problems have been encountered, but these should be resolved in time. Meanwhile the AQB is pleased with the plotter application. The graphic plots not only appeal to the reader due to their visual nature, but a great number of accompanying data can support the plotted images on the same plot.

For example, the plot illustrated on page 6 shows observations in Missoula County for a three-year period by months. The vertical axis indicates micrograms of particulate matter per cubic meter of air sampled. The bar height indicates geometric monthly averages, while the dashed lines indicate averages for each year. The dots represent actual data points and show variations for the samples taken. The plot tabulation shows number of sample counts or observations, and numerical values for monthly and annual averages. Finally, information about the sampling location, pollutant type, and applicable standard is given.

New Study Provides Compensation Data On City and County Management Jobs

The first edition of the *Public Sector Compensation Report* has been recently published by the Executive Compensation Service of the American Management Associations.

The 163-page report provides statistical and operational information about administrative-level personnel in city and county governments across the country. Its objective is to supply local administrations with the means for monitoring their pay policies.

"The acquisition, retention and motivation of competent personnel is a prerequisite to the effective functioning of any organization, whether it be in government or in private industry, and a well managed and competitive compensation program serves as a key element toward the achievement of these ends," the AMA study points out.

The survey includes job descriptions and compensation policies for 70 top and middle management positions from Mayor to Deputy Sanitation Commissioner, as well as information on budget and payroll of city and county governments.

Some key findings:

- Gross operating budgets for 1979 for the 42 percent of the surveyed locations responding to this question increased an overall 10 percent over the previous year. Payrolls showed a comparable percentage gain, due in part to an increase in the number of full-time employees. (Because fiscal years begin at different times, only half of those surveyed could provide budget figures.)
- While pension programs are almost universally in effect, only 17 percent of the cities and 9 percent of the counties bear the full cost of their plans.

Employees are eligible for pension plan coverage when hired in almost 65 percent of locations reporting and subject to a minimal waiting period of 6 months to a year in most of the others.

- A mandatory retirement age is in effect in 61 percent of the cities and 47 percent of the counties, with 70 years of age stipulated by more than 2 out of 3 of the respondents.
- Coverage for long-term disability is provided by about 35 percent of the participants in each of the city and county governments, with the employer paying the complete premium in almost every instance.
- Virtually every participating government provides employees with basic hospital, medical, dental and group life insurance. Premium payment policies vary considerably, however.
- Average salary for a Mayor ranges from \$19,300 for cities of less than 50,000 to \$42,700 for 200,000 or over. Compensation for Fire Commissioners ranges from \$22,600 to \$35,800; for Police Commissioners, \$22,800 to \$37,500.

Data for this study are taken from 90 county and 141 town governments with a combined work force of more than 680,000 and resident population of more than 61 million.

Copies of the full report are available from American Management Association, 135 West 50th Street, New York City, NY 10020. Cost is \$280 for non-participants in the survey, and \$130 for participants, with a 10 percent discount for AMA members.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION SCHEDULES WORKSHOPS

The Personnel Division of the Department of Administration has released a list of workshops tentatively scheduled for November and early December. These include:

Date	Course Title	Cost Estimate
Nov. 6,7		\$40.
	<i>Effective Letter Writing</i> - designed for employees at all levels who wish to improve the organization, style, and effectiveness of their business letters.	
Nov. 8,9		\$50.
	<i>Citizen Participation for Executive Departments and Agencies</i> - designed to acquaint governmental decision makers with the need for and value of public participation in the decision-making process and with the various methods of achieving it.	
Nov. 13-15		\$45.
	<i>Understanding and Managing Human Behavior</i> - designed to explore basic transactional analysis behavioral concepts and how people communicate with one another in setting objectives and individual standards, counseling, and self-appraisal.	
Nov. 27, 28		\$35.
	<i>Selection Interviewing</i> - designed to increase the manager's ability to identify the best qualified applicant for a position by increasing the accuracy of the selection interview.	
Dec. 4,5	<i>Managing Stress</i>	\$40.
Dec. 6		\$10
	<i>Self Improvement Career Development, Series I</i>	
Dec. 13		\$10
	<i>Self Improvement Career Development, Series II</i>	

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All sessions will be conducted in Helena, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 4:00 p.m. unless otherwise specified in the course agenda. Interested out-of-town state and local government employees are encouraged to register by phone to insure a position in the workshop of their choice, Call the Training Coordinator at 449-3871 for further information.

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